

DIVISION F – DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT,
AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2015

The following statement is an explanation of the effects of Division F, which makes appropriations for the Department of the Interior, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Forest Service, the Indian Health Service, and related agencies for fiscal year 2015. Language contained in House Report 113-551 providing specific guidance to agencies regarding the administration of appropriated funds and any corresponding reporting requirements carries the same emphasis as the language included in this explanatory statement and should be complied with unless specifically addressed to the contrary herein.

In instances where the House report speaks more broadly to policy issues or offers views that are subject to interpretation, such views remain those of the House and are not affirmed by this explanatory statement unless repeated herein. In cases where the House report or this explanatory statement directs the submission of a report, such report is to be submitted to both the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations. Where this explanatory statement refers to the Committees or the Committees on Appropriations, unless otherwise noted, this reference is to the House Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies and the Senate Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies.

The Committees direct each department and agency funded in this Act to follow the directions set forth in this Act and the accompanying statement, and not reallocate resources or reorganize activities except as provided herein or otherwise approved by the Committees through the reprogramming process as described in this explanatory statement. This explanatory statement addresses only those agencies and accounts for which there is a need for greater explanation than provided in the Act itself. Funding levels for appropriations by account, program, and activity, with comparisons to the fiscal year 2014 enacted level and the fiscal year 2015 budget request, can be found in the table at the end of this division.

Unless expressly stated otherwise, any reference to “this Act” or “at the end of this statement” shall be treated as referring only to the provisions of this division.

National Ocean Policy.—The President’s budget submission for fiscal year 2016 shall identify all funding and associated actions proposed for the implementation of the National Ocean Policy. In addition, not later than 90 days after the date on which the President’s fiscal year 2016 budget request is submitted to the Congress, the President shall submit a comprehensive report to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations identifying Federal expenditures since fiscal year 2012 by agency and account that have supported the development, administration, or implementation of the National Ocean Policy developed under Executive Order 13547. The report shall also identify funding proposed for the

TITLE III - RELATED AGENCIES
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE

FOREST AND RANGELAND RESEARCH

The bill provides \$296,000,000 for Forest and Rangeland Research, which includes \$70,000,000 for Forest Inventory and Analysis. The following directions are also provided:

The Forest Service is directed to continue making significant investments in research and development and to prioritize white-nose syndrome in bats, research to improve management of the stressors impacting forests, and development of markets to offset the increasing cost of forest management. The Forest Service is urged to invest in high value, high volume markets for low value wood through a wide range of biomass uses, including nanotechnology, wood for energy, and green building construction. This includes innovative building systems to support growth in the market share of wood in both residential and non-residential construction; research, grants, and demonstration projects to advance the use of wood products in high-rise construction; and wood-based nanotechnology.

Urban Forest Research.—The Forest Service is encouraged to maintain a vibrant urban forest research program to assist urban communities in inventorying and assessing the changing conditions and health of urban forests and develop strategic plans to sustain these natural resources.

Bighorn Sheep Research.—The Forest Service is urged to collaborate with the Bureau of Land Management and the Agricultural Research Service on research involving the risk of disease transmission between domestic and bighorn sheep.

STATE AND PRIVATE FORESTRY

The bill provides \$232,653,000 for State and Private Forestry. The following directions are also provided:

Landscape Scale Restoration.—The Forest Service is expected to continue the competitive process and to award the funding in a manner that provides each State with funds to implement the highest priorities in their Forest Action Plans, engage woodland owners in active forest management, leverage non-Federal resources, and produce measurable economic, ecological and social benefits. The Forest Service is directed to report to the Committees on Appropriations within 90 days of enactment of this Act on the progress made during the first year of implementation and projections for the coming year.